



**Minutes of Crediton Town Council's Policy & Forward Planning Committee, held on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, at 6.00 pm, at the Council Offices, Market Street, Crediton**

**Present:** Cllrs Mrs L Brookes-Hocking (Committee Chairman), Mr F Letch, Miss J Harris, Mrs A Hughes and Mr J Ross

**In Attendance:** Mrs Clare Dalley, Town Clerk

**80. To receive and accept apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs Mr J Downes and Mr N Way. (Proposed by Cllr Letch)

**81. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Letch declared that as a member of more than one authority, that any views or opinions expressed at the meeting would be provisional and would not prejudice any views expressed at a meeting of another authority.

**82. Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

**83. Order of Business**

There were no changes to the order of business.

**84. Chairman's and Clerk's Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**85. Policy & Forward Planning Committee Minutes – To approve and sign the minutes of the Policy & Forward Planning Committee Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017, as a correct record.** It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Policy & Forward Planning Committee Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017, as a correct record and they were duly signed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking. (Proposed by Cllr Harris).

**86. Matters Arising**

Page 17, minute number 61 – Cllrs Brookes-Hocking & Ross confirmed they had attended the Place Land public consultation on the proposals for development of the land at Higher Road.

Page 18, minute number 64 – Cllr Brookes-Hocking requested the invitation to meet with Officers at Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) and Devon County Council (DCC) to look at traffic problems in the town be advanced.

Page 20, minute number 72 – Cllr Brookes-Hocking confirmed she had looked at the bus stop outside Lloyds Bank with Mr Tricker, one of the Town Council's appointed traffic consultants and Mr Sorensen, Highway Development Control Officer at Devon County Council. She confirmed the issue centres around where the bus stop doors need to be in relation to the bus stop, and the pick-up and drop-off of passengers. The issue will not be solved by moving the bus stop

further up the road, as this will cause a problem with traffic exiting Searle Street and cause a blockage in the road due to the location of the bus stop on the opposite side of the road. She suggested that the problem may be solved if the bus stop was turned around and suggested this was looked into. She also suggested that as this was an air quality issue there may be funding available for such works. Cllr Letch recommended the Clerk contact Mr Simon Newcombe at Mid Devon District Council.

- 87. To receive an update on the progress of Crediton Neighbourhood Plan.**  
Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised the Crediton Neighbourhood Plan is still progressing.
- 88. To receive an update on the potential High Street/town centre traffic management feasibility study.** Cllr Brookes-Hocking advised that she had met with Mr Tricker, one of the Town Council's appointed traffic consultants, and Mr Ian Sorensen, Highway Development Control Officer at Devon County Council. Mr Tricker is preparing a Scoping Report and will be e-mailing this once it is complete.
- 89. To receive an update on the planned Health & Well-Being Open Day for Spring 2018 and agree any further actions.** The Clerk confirmed the exhibitor invitations had been sent and four organisations had already booked places. Turning Tides has offered to provide some lunchtime musical entertainment and look after the catering, as it is good experience for their members. As yet, the guest speaker has not been confirmed but the Clerk is still working on this.
- 90. To consider the ongoing youth provision in Crediton and agree a course of action.** Further information had been issued prior to the meeting. A report prepared by Lauren Stacey, Youth Worker at Crediton Methodist Church was considered by members. It was noted the location of the youth café is a disadvantage as there is still a reluctance from the target audience to go into a church environment, nevertheless, numbers are steadily increasing again due to Lauren's commitment and hard work. It was **resolved** to make the annual £4,000 Youth Café payment to Crediton Methodist Church and to hold the £5,200 detached youth work funding until it was required, as some of last year's money has not been spent yet. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

It was further **resolved** to allocate a youth provision budget of £9,200 under Localism Projects in the 2018-2019 Town Council budget. (Proposed by Cllr Brookes-Hocking)

- 91. To consider and comment on the draft Heart of the South West Productivity Strategy.**  
The strategy was discussed and it was **resolved** for the Clerk to prepare a response, which could be circulated to Committee members prior to submission, for comment and amendment, detailing the following points:
- The document needs to either, avoid the use of jargon, by removing acronyms which have not been explained elsewhere in the document, or it needs to contain a jargon busting glossary.
  - There is a lack of detail in the strategy, especially pertaining to 'how' things are going to be achieved.



- There is insufficient focus on micro-businesses/self-employed individuals and how they can be supported to expand. For example, the provision of clustered workshop spaces with shared welfare facilities, which enable and assist businesses to take on extra staff.
- Productivity doesn't necessarily mean prosperity, this seems to have been ignored.
- High productivity for one section of the community can leave another section behind, which can be a recipe for divisiveness.
- There is no evidence of enterprise engaging with communities.
- The highway infrastructure has been practically ignored, however this is one of the major issues/barriers to productivity.
- It does not consider planning and the allocation of employment land, especially small space employment land, which for Crediton has disappeared.
- Quality and investment in the public realm has been completely missed. The importance of protecting small green spaces within our towns, which make a significant contribution to community wellbeing, has not been considered. The strategy appears to only focus on national parks and coast lines.
- The document itself needs to be condensed. It currently contains too much repetition of key themes which overwhelms the reader and leads them to disengage. It needs to be more succinct and to the point, 15 pages instead of 30.

92. **To consider the provision of public conveniences in Crediton and agree a course of action.** Further information had been issued with the agenda and was considered by members. Members were concerned to note the escalating costs relating to the maintenance of the toilets and that no progress had been made on the transfer of Newcombes Meadow toilets. It was also felt there should be no reason why Market Street toilets could not be directly controlled by the Town Council rather than MDDC. Cllr Letch confirmed he and the Clerk were meeting with Mr Andrew Busby, Estates Manager at MDDC, the following day to discuss the toilets and would report back.

## PART TWO

93. It was **resolved** under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. (Proposed by Brookes-Hocking)
94. **To receive an update from the Town Clerk on the Council Office building and agree any further actions.** Due to the sensitive and confidential nature of this item, no further information can be disclosed at this time.
95. **Close**  
The meeting closed at 7.47 pm.

Signed.....

[Redacted Signature]

(Chairman)

Date:.....

02/01/18